

Research Statement for Peer Review of Creative Works

Visual Art Work

Doug Wright

The Scottish Series by Doug Wright

Research Background

Light has fascinated and challenged artists throughout history, each working it through individual interpretations and from various perspectives. The current attitudes to the two-dimensional realisation of light have continued its significance and it is in this area of investigation that my work is situated.

Research Contribution

Human memory is a fascinating function that can either accurately recall an event or trick the individual through forgotten facets. The current inquiries employ paintings and drawings to actively engage an historical connection of a distant memory of light within the family home. That light, as I remember it, was sensitively handled by Father who utilised art deco lamps he had designed and constructed. These lamps had emitted a soft light identifying each of the main rooms in the house.

My memory and how I recall this situation, and indeed how others recall a place or time, are the focus of current investigations. Hence, interpreting memory through visual means in a contemporary context forms the basis for the symbolism and light references in the studio investigations. Using abstraction also allows the geometrical composition to provide a formality in contrast to the randomness and mystery of what the light signifies, adding to the interpretative qualities visual inquiry can induce.

Research Significance

The research topic has remained an integral part of my work for the last two decades working it through contrasting geographical locations, both in this country, New Zealand, Italy and the United Kingdom.

The work produced throughout this period has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in the above countries.

References to these works have been made by Keneally, S., Peter Ward, *In a different Light*, St Lucia, University Press, 1991; and Kinnane, G., "Autumn Impressions: Doug Wright" *Art in Australia*, Vol 27, No. 3, 1990.